

ONE OUT OF SEVEN CHILDREN IN UNITED STATES DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago the President of the United States said he wanted to give all Americans health care that could never be taken away, affordable health care that could never be taken away.

Now Members of the then minority and now majority take great pride in saying they stopped the President from advancing that particular change in our public policy. The result has been that more and more people are without health insurance in this country.

Now the article in today's Washington Post, page 3, says that one out of seven children in this country do not have insurance. Even more damning than that figure is that 9 out of 10 of those children live in a family where one adult works. These are people who are doing what the American system says we should do: We should work, we should get a job, we should try and take care of our families, but they do not have jobs where they get health care benefits.

Now we have waited for 2 years for the Republicans to offer any proposal, and there is none, and there is no budget that deals with it now.

WE MUST DO MORE TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN OUR SOCIETY

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, never in the history of the world have we had a country with resources abandon its own children. I say to my colleagues, "It is one thing to say that you are poor, that you don't have the money, that you don't have the resources to get the job done. Well, we have the resources, and in this Congress we're making the choice not to put them where they are needed."

Frankly, the cost is far more. Many of these children, once crippled by their illnesses, end up in emergency rooms where the cost far exceeds anything that coverage would cost.

This Congress embarrasses itself to talk about bipartisanship and family values and not have the audacity to sit back and take the action. We sit back, we take no action when it comes to the most helpless in our society.

These children are without care. We are a country with the resources. There is no other country today in the world with the resources we have that does not protect its own children.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR CONCERNING COMMENTS ABOUT FEDERAL EXPRESS

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning deeply concerned and deeply disturbed about the comments of a well-known Republican leader who approached the largest employer in my district, Federal Express, and informed them that it would be duly noted "if the Federal Express PAC continues to give to the Democrats at the Republican takeover of Congress."

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this Republican leader said that business PACs such as Federal Express would "squirm considerably" if they continue to give to Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, the employees of Federal Express contributed to their PAC with the expectations that they will not be pressured to promote the interests of one particular party.

Mr. Speaker, this type of actions and conduct is what leads to the grave cynicism and distrust that pervades the American public.

On behalf of the 30,000 employees of Federal Express, the hundreds of thousands of constituents in my district who benefit from the presence of Federal Express, I am asking the appropriate committees in both bodies, as well as the Justice Department, to answer the question: Is this appropriate behavior of one of our well-known Republican leaders?

DISAPPROVAL OF DETERMINATION OF PRESIDENT REGARDING MEXICO

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 95 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 95

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 58) disapproving the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during fiscal year 1997. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations; (2) the amendment recommended by the Committee on International Relations now printed in the joint resolution, which shall be considered as read, shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, and shall not be separately debatable; (3) the further amendment specified in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by a Member designated in the report, which shall be considered as read, shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, and

shall separately be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (4) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the consideration of House Joint Resolution 58 pursuant to House Resolution 95, the amendment printed in House Report 105-20 be considered as modified by (1) striking "the impact of such process on financial markets" from the text designated as section 6(C); and (2) striking "on currency markets, international financial markets and merchandise trade flow" from the text designated as section 6(g)(1)(B) and inserting in lieu thereof "in enhancing international counter narcotics cooperation".

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. FOLEY]. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take the floor to begin this debate today on the drug war and the specific question of certifying Mexico's role in the drug war to make several points to all of my colleagues which I hope will be noted throughout the debate, and I hope on our side of the aisle that the managers both of the debate on the rule and the debate on the actual bill will help communicate. This is an effort on our part to help the people of Mexico to help the people of Colombia and to help the American people.

All of us are faced with a terrible challenge of international drug lords who are ruthless and who use the profits of American money from sales to Americans in order to sustain a level of violence that is tragic. No American can look at the thousands of Colombians who have died, no American can look at the Mexican prosecutors, the Mexican police who have died risking their lives to try to free their countries from the scourge of drug dealers and then talk in a self-righteous manner about these countries.

We have a challenge in America of ending the drug trade protecting our children and cutting off the flow of money to drug lords wherever they are. We have a challenge as good neighbors to recognize that we need to reach out to help the people of Mexico and to